

# LEMONNIER POST

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Camp Lemonnier provides, operates, and sustains superior service to support Regional and Combatant Command requirements; and enables operations in the Horn of Africa while fostering positive U.S-African Nation relations.

## ***Fallen But Not Forgotten***



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# Captain's Corner



**Cover:** Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gerald Snyder, Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, pays his respects during a Ceremony at Cimetiere non Musulman de Djibouti May 31.

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Freinds and Family Members,

This is my first chance to address you in the Post. First, let me reiterate the honor it is to serve as your Commanding Officer. There isn't a greater privilege for an officer than to serve in Command. As stated during the Change of Command Ceremony in April, "...Today the Navy grants me yet another opportunity; and I intend to make good on my obligation in return. Listen -- Learn -- Lead." Thanks for motivating me.

Two words describe what I see and experience as I walk around Camp and watch you in action: Pride; enthusiasm! Each of you, whether you are a Special Assistant, EMF staff or part of our nine N-codes, coupled with PAE provide remarkable support to over 3,000 personnel comprised of CJTF-HOA and nearly two dozen units.

As RDML Losey hosts a variety of visitors at CLDJ every week, I get the opportunity to brag on what each of you do to support the overall mission of the units operating at CLDJ. I receive countless compliments from visiting officials, ships, air crews and our tenant commands on your service. Keep up the great work.

As we maintain a steady Optempo, I challenge you to carve out some time, step back...and use your experience to influence and improve processes. As we influence change we must keep the long-view in mind...knowing what we're putting in place must outlast us... and set our reliefs up for even greater

success. I encourage you to work your ideas with your chain of command.

There have been a few changes over the past few months. In May we reinforced the pride we have by greeting each other by saluting. In the MWR front we're completing a full upgrade to the wireless internet, and renovations to the Pool and Green Bean Café ... which are all planned for completion by the end of June. In addition, MWR will initiate monthly meetings with reps from various Commands and Departments -- so we can hear your ideas as we continue to improve our Programs.

The biggest change in June is the RIP/TOA between 1/65 and 2/137. Please wish our "shipmates" from 1/65 the best as they head back home...and welcome aboard 2/137.

Thanks to each of you and your families for your selfless service. Thanks for making a difference!

Capt. Darius Banaji, CO



**Left:** Army Spc. Reyshalise Ramos, a member of Puerto Rico's 1/65th Army National Guard Unit, deployed to Camp Lemonnier, receives an autographed photo from Chris 'The Crippler' Leben, an Ultimate Fighter Championship (UFC) fighter, during an autograph and demonstration session at Thunderdome, the camp's athletic facility, April 29. Leben and four other members of the UFC toured the Horn of Africa, interacting with military and civilian personnel as part of an Armed Forces Entertainment tour. (Photo by MC2 Marc Rockwell-Pate)



# Capt. Darius Banaji Assumes Command of Camp Lemonnier

Story and Photos by MC2 (SW/ AW) Marc Rockwell-Pate

CAMP LEMONNIER, Djibouti - During a change of command ceremony at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, April 28, Capt. Darius Banaji relieved Capt. Bill Finn as commanding officer of the only U.S. military installation on the continent of Africa.

The U.S. Ambassador to Djibouti, James Swan; the Japanese Ambassador to Djibouti, Masiki Noke; Commander Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia, Rear Adm. David Mercer; Commander Combined Task Force Horn of Africa, Rear Adm. Brian Losey; Djibouti Deputy Defense Chief of Staff, General Hassan Ali Kamil; as well as nearly 200 U.S. and Djiboutian military, state officials and civilians gathered in the camp's recreation facility, 11 Degrees North, to welcome Banaji.

"I look forward to building on the foundation Capt. Finn created not only on camp, but also in the community with our Djiboutian hosts," said

Banaji. "I have relieved him before and I am confident following in his footsteps as commander at Camp Lemonnier". While at CLDJ nearly a year to the day, Finn has initiated and witnessed the metamorphosis of the camp. When Finn took command in June 2009, there were nearly 1,500 personnel deployed to camp. Now there is a multinational force of more than 3,000 personnel along with nearly 1,000 local national personnel who work at the camp every day in support of various commands and missions.

"I am proud of the work the dedicated personnel on camp have accomplished during my time here," said Finn. "I am also proud of the strong personal relationships we have been able to build with the Djibouti City community and the Djiboutian government."

During the change of command ceremony, Finn took time to specially recognize key Djiboutian government officials and the Djiboutian people.

"The U.S. is very fortunate that the Djiboutian government and its citizens have embraced our presence in their country, and we have the responsibility to be the best tenants possible," said Finn at the ceremony. "We must always be transparent in our operations, maximizing opportunities for Djiboutian businesses and people on camp, and above all else be outstanding representatives of the U.S."

During his tenure, Finn helped shift the camp from a skeletal expeditionary in-



**Above:** Capt. Bill Finn (left) and Capt. Darius Banaji (right) salute the U.S. Flag during the national anthem prior to their Change of Command ceremony, Apr. 28.

frastructure to a thriving expeditionary environment, offering most of the support elements that would be found at any Navy installation and capable of transitioning to an enduring facility in the future. Finn helped foster construction projects for a new chow hall, new recreational facilities, a new post office and chapel, and an ATM; the first on camp.

While cementing the camp's infrastructure, Finn also dedicated countless hours to improving ties with the local community and businesses.

"Capt. Finn made a difference for the camp by working with local leadership and the local media to give a face to the camp," said Mahamed Abdillahi, the camp's community relations specialist and a local Djiboutian. "Before the community was not aware of what Camp Lemonnier was. Now you can identify Camp Lemonnier with Capt. Finn."

Abdillahi added that there is also more trust from the local community toward the

camp because of the efforts of Finn and his staff.

During the ceremony Finn received the Legion of Merit for his extraordinary work while serving as the camp commanding officer. Along with the change in the camp's command, Cmdr. Brian Wilson relieved Cmdr. Dave Cook as executive officer at camp. After leaving Djibouti, Finn will report to Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, as the operations officer while Cook will report to Offutt Air Base, Nebraska, as a planner for Joint Functional Component Command - Global Strike.

"I'm happy to have taken command of such a dedicated and talented group of people," said Banaji, "and I know that the staff and I are excited about the direction of Camp Lemonnier and potentially ushering in a new 'enduring' era here in the Horn of Africa."



**Above:** Capt. Bill Finn speaks during the Change of Command Ceremony, Apr. 28.

# CTFJ-HOA Members Honor Fallen on Memorial Day

DJIBOUTI -- Service members gathered for a Memorial Day ceremony here, honoring those who have died while serving Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa.

Rear Adm. Brian Losey, CJTF-HOA commander, said that those who have died in the service of their country will not be forgotten and that the sacrifices of those left behind are not in vain. "From the sting of losing friends, to comforting their families, we know how important it is that they will not be forgotten," said the admiral.

"In the land of the free, we must always remember that we are the defenders of the home of the brave," said Navy CAPT Scott Vasina, Strategic Communications director and Master of Ceremonies for the event.

During the ceremony, the names of the 21 service members who passed away while being attached to CJTF-HOA were read. They are (name and hometown):

- Capt. Seth Michaud, Hudson, Mass.
- Petty Officer 1st Class Alec Mazur, Vernon, N.Y.
- Petty Officer 3rd Class Fabricio Moreno, Brooklyn, N.Y.
- Petty Officer 3rd Class Emory J. Turpin, Dahlonaga, Ga.
- 1st Lt. Brandon R. Dronet, Erath, La.
- Sgt. James F. Fordyce, Newton Square, Pa.
- Senior Airman Alecia S. Good, Broadview Heights, Ohio
- Lance Cpl. Samuel W. Large Jr., Broadview Heights, Ohio
- Sgt. Donnie Leo F. Levens, Long Beach, Miss.
- Cpl. Matthieu Marcellus, Gainesville, Fla.
- Sgt. Jonathan E. McColley, Gettysburg, Penn.
- Staff Sgt. Luis M. Melendez Sanchez, Bayamon, Puerto Rico
- Lance Cpl. Nicholas J. Sovie, Ogdensburg, N.Y.
- Capt. Bryan D. Willard, Hummelstown, Pa.
- Sgt. Gregory D. Fejeran, Barrigada, Guam
- Sgt. Christopher J. C. Fernandez, Dededo, Guam
- Lance Cpl. Dustin L. Canham, Lake Stevens, Wash.
- Lt. Col. Joseph A. Moore, Boise, Idaho
- Chief Warrant Officer Milton E. Suggs, Lockport, La.
- Lance Cpl. Randy M. Heck, Steubenville, Ohio
- Sgt. Roberto E. Diaz Boria, San Juan, Puerto Rico



**Above:** From the podium, U.S. Ambassador to Djibouti, Honorable James C. Swan, speaks during the Memorial Day Commemoration May 31, 2010 at Djibouti's Christian cemetery in remembrance of those that lost their lives during WWII.



**Above:** U.S. Navy Information Technician 1st Class David Fedora plays taps during a Memorial Day ceremony on Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, May 31, 2010. The ceremony was held in remembrance of all who lost their lives while serving their country. Fedora is currently assigned to Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.



**Left:** U.S. Navy CAPT Scott Vasina speaks about honoring America's veterans during a Memorial Day ceremony on Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, May 31, 2010. Vasina is the Strategic Communications director for the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa and was the Master of Ceremonies for the event held in remembrance of those who lost their lives while serving their country.



# You've Been Spotted At Camp!





# Roller Skating Boosts Morale, Fun Way to Exercise

Story and Photo by MC3  
Tyler Wilson

CAMP LEMONNIER, Djibouti -- Music could be heard across Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti (CLDJ), as the first-ever 70-80s Skating Jam took place at the camp's Thunder Dome basketball court, May 21.

This idea started three months ago when Operations Specialist 2nd Class Carlo Noid started skating around the basketball court as a personal way of exercising, and has grown into a camp wide event.

"I was really just looking for a way to

exercise and stay out of trouble," said Noid. "Three months ago I started skating by myself, and then each Friday there would be more people showing up to join me skating, and this is what we have now."

The event wasn't just for those with skates; a large group came out to enjoy the music and support those skating.

"Everybody loves the idea," said Air Force Tech Sgt. Danielle Pier, one of the skaters at the event. "We're getting people who don't know how to skate or who don't have skates still com-

ing out and enjoying each other's company and the music. It's like a block party back at home."

Part of the appeal of the skating jam is its tie to loved ones back at home said Noid.

"At home we all skate as a family," said Noid. "And in order to keep that connection with them while I'm deployed here in Djibouti I practice and try to skate as often as possible so I can rejoin them when I get back and it will be like I never left."

At the end of the day, many deployed service members are just looking for an es-



**Above:** Operations Specialist 2nd Class Carlo Noid and Air Force Staff Sgt. Danielle Pier dance to music while skating during the 70-80s Skate Jam.

cape from the working day and the skate jam provides that.

"This whole event just makes me feel free," said Noid. "I work long hours here in a forward deployed

area and it can get pretty stressful, but because of skating I have something fun every week to look forward to that brings a little bit of home here."

## Training Tests Camp Lemonnier First Responders

Story by MC2 Marc Rockwellpate

CAMP LEMONNIER, Djibouti -- More than 100 military members deployed to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, as well as nearly 40 local Djiboutian employees were tested to see how they would respond to a very real and dangerous threat April 5-6 while training at Camp - How To Deal with a Suicide Bomber.

"These drills have both strategic and tactical purposes," said Marc Franklin, the emergency management director at CLDJ. "Strategically these exercises are to ensure the force protection and anti terrorism readiness of the whole installation. Tactically, specifically, these exercises deal with personnel carrying an improvised explosive device."

During the two days of drills, Sailors from the

camp's security department and Explosive Ordinance Disposal Mobile Unit 1, Soldiers from Puerto Rico's 1/65th Army National Guard Unit and Djiboutian secu-

city guards were put through a series of live exercises with almost no warning. In each scenario, a member of the training team had a counterfeit IED made of d-cell batteries and a fake claymore explosive. The member tried to access the

**"We try to make these drills as real as possible."**

rity guards were put through a series of live exercises with almost no warning.

"We try to make these drills as real as possible," said Franklin. "There are safeties in places to make sure nothing happens to the people role-playing, but we're trying not to tip off the responders either."

Along with on-scene safeties, Franklin and other members of the training team brief each unit's supervisor prior to performing the exercises.

camp's identification verification point and, each time, the member was discovered, apprehended and placed at a safe distance from personnel while the camp's EOD unit responded to the scene.

Once on location, EOD personnel deployed an MTRS Talon, a small robot unit, to get a close look at the suspected bomber as well as gather information about the fake IED.

"We try to use the Talon's tools to get diagnostics on

the improvised explosive device in order to render it safe," said Explosive Ordinance Disposal 1st Class Jack Davis, a member of EODMU1.

After disposing of the fake IED, the drill concluded with members of the training team debriefing the first responders and their supervisors.

"Everyone who participated did well today," said Franklin. "They responded quickly with correct procedures and effectively neutralized what would have been a very dangerous situation."

# 'Naughty by Nature' Brings Back Old School Flavors to Camp Lemonnier

Story and Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Cheryl Toner

CAMP LEMONNIER, Djibouti – Grammy award-winning group Naughty By Nature performed for troops at Camp Lemonnier May 24 while on their second USO tour in the Persian Gulf. The group, doing their first performance in Africa, is known for hits like "O.P.P.," "Hip Hop Hooray" and "Jamboree."

The original trio of Treach, Vin Rock and DJ Kay Gee previously performed for

troops in Kuwait and Iraq. On this trip that includes Bahrain, they were joined by MTV's Sway. "What an awesome way to come here," said Sway, who is on his first USO trip, as well as his first trip to Africa. To come on the tour and see the sacrifice made by military people is "very humbling," said Sway.

Naughty By Nature became interested in doing USO tours when they saw other artists reach out to the troops, like Jessica Simpson, according to Vin Rock. They then reached out to their manager, along with DJ Skribble, a disc jockey and producer, to see how they could contribute, according to Treach. "It's tough for everyone," said Treach of the separation that families face with deployments. "Kids out here are homesick."

"We want to give them a taste of home," said Kay Gee. "It's our freedom they're fighting for," he said of the three-day,



two-stop tour, where travel time is longer than the time on the ground.

However, both the group and the VJ think it's well worth it. "If we can do something to help our service members, it's our duty to do so," said Sway.

**Above:** The Grammy Award winning hip-hop group 'Naughty by Nature' performs for service members at 11 Degrees North during an Armed Forces Entertainment concert at camp. The group also performed in Bahrain on their USO tour.

**Left:** Service members and civilians wave their hands in the air as Vin Rock, the front man for 'Naughty by Nature', and DJ Kay Gee hype up the crowd during a concert at 11 Degrees North.



## The First Salute

**Left:** Commanding Officer Capt. Darius Banaji receives the first salute at sunrise from the camp's Command Master Chief (CMC) Robert Cummings while entering his office on camp, May 5. The salute between Banaji and Cummings signifies a camp-wide policy change at CLDJ, requiring military personnel to render salutes.